

1961

## Progress '61: 1961 Annual Report

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# PROGRESS '61

NEBRASKA GAME, FORESTATION, AND PARKS COMMISSION

# 1961 ANNUAL REPORT



## NEBRASKA GAME, FORESTATION, and PARKS COMMISSION

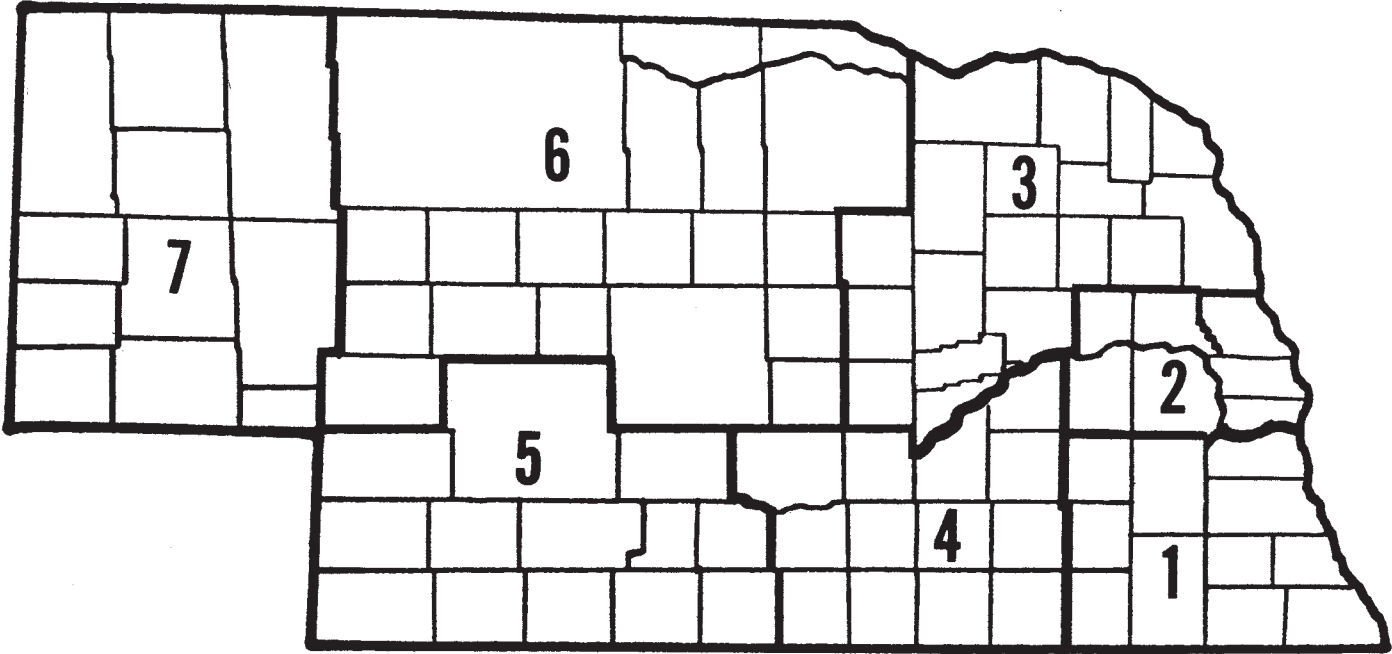
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# COMMISSIONERS



**Robert W. Hall**  
Omaha, District 2  
Chairman



**Keith Kreycik**  
Valentine, District 6



**Leroy Bohensky**  
St. Paul, District 3



**Wade Ellis**  
Alliance, District 7



**Donald C. Smith**  
Franklin, District 5

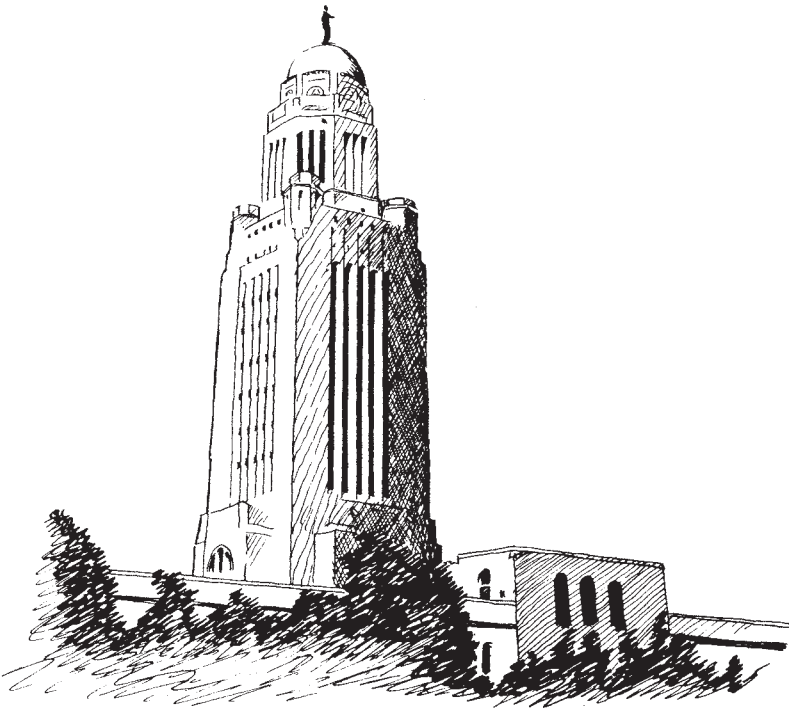


**A. I. Rauch**  
Holdrege, District 4



**Louis Findeis**  
Pawnee City, District 1





**M. O. Steen**  
Director

All things considered, 1961 has been the most fruitful year in the history of the Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission.

With the exception of waterfowl, substantial improvement occurred in the production and harvest of all game. The harvest of pheasants increased 12 per cent over 1960, quail 63 per cent, squirrel 10 per cent, and cottontail rabbits 77 per cent. In big game, antelope hunters scored an astounding 87 per cent success ratio, and Nebraska had the first state-wide firearm season for deer in 55 long years. More than 1,200 archers took 331 deer for a 24.3 per cent success ratio, and a new and amazing record for archery. But here is the real news--motor vehicles killed more deer on our highways in 1961 than archers took with bow and arrow. We have deer in Nebraska --the biggest herds in more than half a century.

The stocking of live-trapped antelope and wild turkey continued in 1961 at a pace unequaled anywhere. The transplanted antelope are living up to management estimates. The pronghorn is definitely on the way back in our state. The introduction of Merriam's turkey has been so phenomenally successful that the first Nebraska gobble hunting season in this century is no more than a year away.

Nebraska anglers broke records time and again in 1961. Typical of these catches were a 59-pound catfish and a 72-pound paddlefish. And a Nebraska housewife established a new world's record for sauger --added proof that the ladies really know the art of angling.

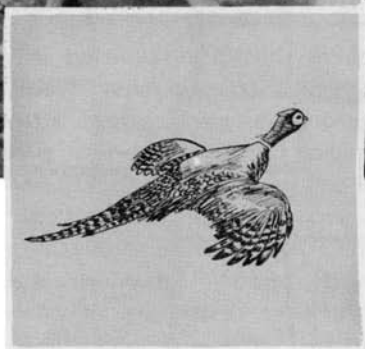
Hatchery production and fish stocking, especially of trout, northern pike, and walleye, reached new

heights--numbers that are recorded in the millions. Three new species, striped bass, Kentucky spotted bass, and Sacramento perch, were introduced in an effort to increase fishing in certain problem waters.

Despite an inadequate appropriation for this purpose, the promotion of tourist trade made good gains in 1961. An aroused and concerned public stepped in with private funds to supplement the commission's effort. Chambers of commerce, communities, industry, various organizations, and private citizens all over Nebraska have done wonders in this field. They deserve the lion's share of the credit.

Nebraska's power-boating and water-safety laws, plus their strict enforcement, were dramatically justified and vindicated in 1961. On the basis of the number of power boats registered, Nebraska's record of property destruction and loss of life through water accidents was one of the worst in the nation in 1960, but for 1961 it was one of the best.

Despite the records attained in wildlife management, nonresident trade, and water safety, the most encouraging development of 1961 came in the field of state parks. Thanks to news media, organizations, communities, and citizens who seek growth and progress for Nebraska, and especially to a majority of their senators who fought a long but effective battle in the Unicameral, Nebraskans are now assured of a park system befitting their proud state. The establishment of a 10-year fixed levy for the maintenance and capital improvement of our state park system was the crowning achievement of a year of great progress, especially since it assured even more in the decade ahead.



Technicians finish largest transplant in history

# GAME

## Game

The trapping and transplanting of antelope and Merriam's turkey were among the most significant programs carried out by the division in 1961.

An important addition was the introduction of Rio Grande turkeys which were released in a number of sites in the central and southern parts of the state.

Nebraska hunters enjoyed a bountiful year with game populations, except waterfowl, increased over 1960.

Continued progress was made in research studies, giving additional hunting opportunities and enabling the commission to better manage game.

## Pheasant

Pheasants continue as Nebraska's king of upland game birds. Over 1,300,000 were harvested in 1961, giving proof that long seasons and generous bag limits make for top-notch hunting success.

In spite of spring population counts that showed a 17 per cent decrease below the previous spring, summer counts showed the population to be 19 per cent over the 1960 figure, clearly illustrating the importance of reproduction to the level of fall populations. Early winter checks showed pheasants coming through without significant losses.

# UP and UP

## Quail

Bobwhite quail showed an amazing comeback from the severe winter of 1959-60. Hunter success was mirrored in this with the take up 63 per cent over the 1960 season. Whistle counts taken in the spring indicated a 29 per cent increase over 1960, showing clearly the ability of this fine game bird to come back.

## Grouse

Grouse populations remained about stable with sharptails up 32 per cent and prairie chicken down 3 per cent from 1960. Reproduction was slightly better than average, and summer counts showed an increase in both species.

Hunting success was equal to or slightly better than 1960 for both species.

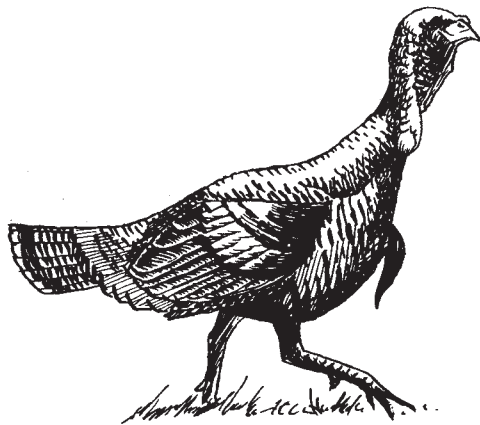
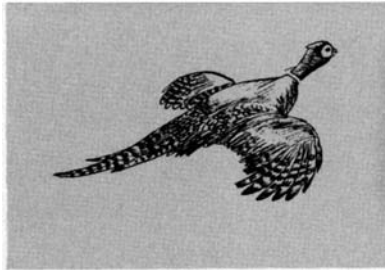
## Rabbit and Squirrel

Cottontail rabbits showed a marked upturn over 1960, with hunters harvesting 647,000 for an increase of 77 per cent. This year-round favorite of hunters of all ages ranks second only to the pheasant in popularity.

Squirrel hunters had one of their best seasons, with a harvest of 235,000 for an average of 6.5 per hunter and a 10 per cent increase over 1960.







1200

## Turkey

The introduction of wild turkey, which was started in 1959 on an experimental basis, has proved to be highly successful.

Two 1959 Merriam's turkey releases in the Pine Ridge totaling 28 birds have increased to an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 birds in three breeding seasons. Trapping from these flocks for transplanting to new release sites began in February, 1961.

These transplants were along the Niobrara River drainage in Cherry, Brown, Rock, and Keya Paha counties, Bull Canyon in Banner County, and the Cheyenne escarpment in Morrill County.

During 1961, experimental releases of Rio Grande turkey were begun. These birds, well established in northern Texas and western Oklahoma along sparsely wooded stream courses, were released in similar areas in southwestern and central Nebraska.

In all, 125 Rio Grande were released, 31 in March, 66 in November, and 28 in December. Observations of releases indicate successful reproduction occurred.

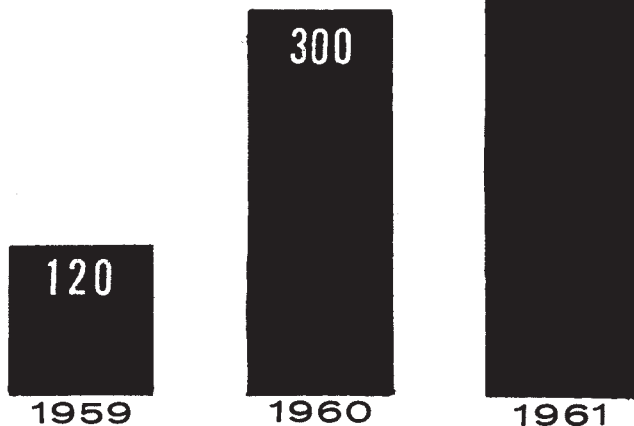
## Furbearers

The fur harvest for the 1960-61 trapping season reversed the trend of the past several years. The harvest of all species was 160,610, 53 per cent above the 1959-60 season, and the highest in the past four years. The permittees actually trapping represented an increase of 13 per cent.

## Wetlands

The inventory of Nebraska's wetlands continued during 1961. Work in the south-central basin area is about 75 per cent completed and an inventory was started in Holt County in the eastern Sand Hills.

In 1961, 558 wetlands were checked, bringing the total to date to 2,051.



Phenomenal increase of turkey population is shown here





Nebraska waterfowl hunters enjoyed a successful season

## Waterfowl

The spring breeding population of ducks was about the same as in 1960, but 11.7 per cent above the average for the previous six years. The Sand Hills breeding population was estimated at 141,775 ducks.

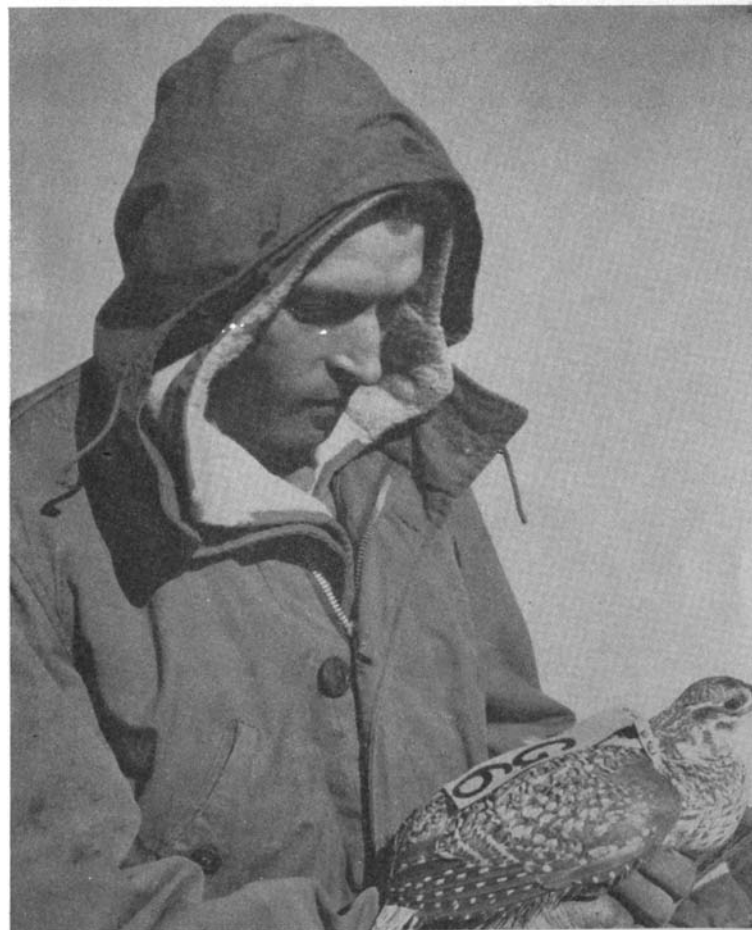
The south-central area was dry during the spring migration. As a result, there was much unoccupied territory, and the calculated population of 16,250 was 57 per cent below the previous year. Mallard, red-head, baldpate, and ruddy showed substantial increases while blue-winged teal and pintail had large decreases.

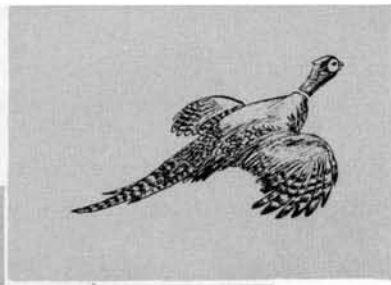
## Research

Studies of the life history and ecology of the pheasant, inaugurated in 1954, were continued on three study areas near Fairmont, Harvard, and Clay Center. Each of these areas was under intensive agricultural use during 1961 with milo, corn, and wheat occupying 75 per cent of the acreage.

Hunter success in the study areas, as obtained through voluntary envelope returns, indicated the greatest number of birds killed per gun-hour of effort occurred during the middle one-third of the season. Significantly more birds were harvested from the Fairmont and Clay Center areas than during the 1960 season.

Grouse studies help put more game in hunter's bag





## Deer

For the first time in 55 years, the entire state was open to deer hunting in 1961. The state was divided into 17 management units, using highways and rivers as boundaries, and hunting was permitted from October 28 though November 1.

Hunters were restricted to antlered deer in all units except the Pine Ridge, Keya Paha, Missouri, Platte, Sand Hills, and Omaha units. Of these, hunters were allowed to harvest either sex throughout the season only in the Omaha unit. In the Sand Hills, hunters were permitted to harvest either sex on the last day in Thomas County only. In the other units, hunters were restricted to antlered males during the first four days but were allowed to harvest either sex on the last day.

The statewide hunting bag was slightly higher than in 1960. Success was 45.3 per cent compared to 42.8 per cent in 1960. Although the total number of hunters was less, the number of deer harvested in 1961 exceeded that of 1960. Only 11,993 permits were issued as compared to 12,596 in 1960. The number of deer taken in 1961 was 5,445 as compared to 5,339 in 1960.

Archery hunting was permitted statewide with a season extending from September 1 through December 31, exclusive of the days open to rifle hunting. No limits were placed on permits and 1,360 were issued.

Nebraska archers had the finest season ever recorded, with 331 bagging a deer for a success ratio of 24.3 per cent. The number of permits increased 9.8 per cent while the number of deer harvested increased 49.7 per cent over 1960.

**Rifle Kill by**



# Antelope



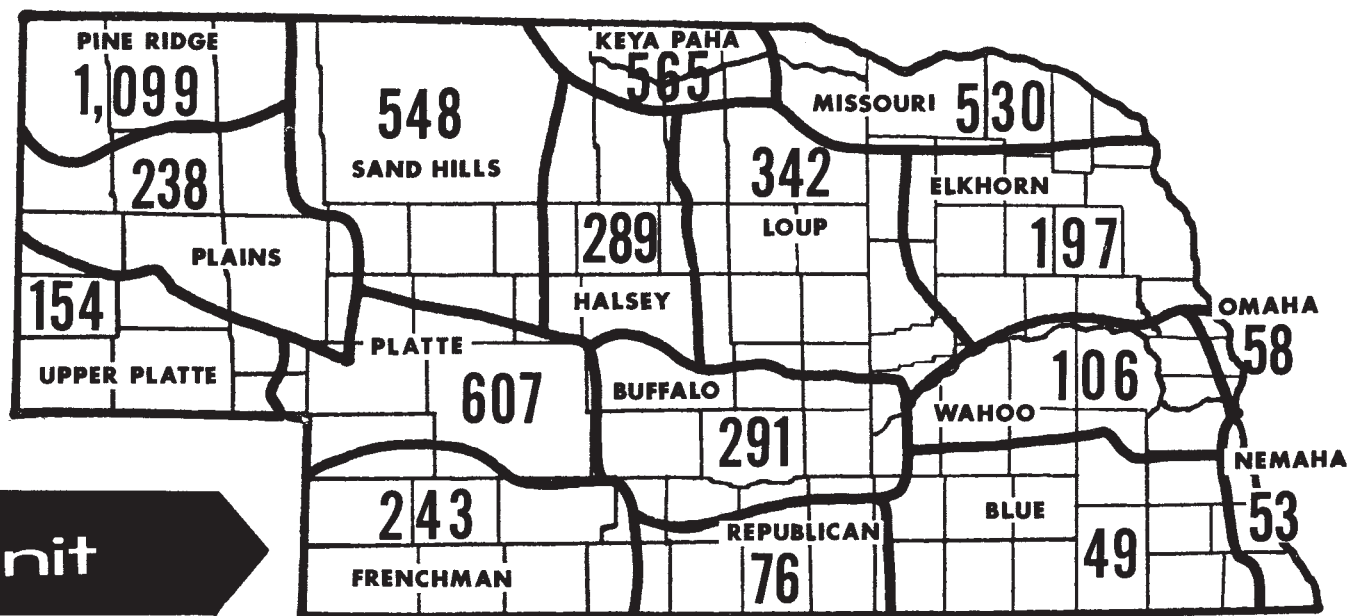
The fall population level of antelope in western Nebraska was higher in 1961 than in 1960. Aerial surveys showed increases in all management units except North Sioux. A decrease of about 30 per cent in this unit reflected the removal of almost 600 animals by trapping and harvest during the previous fall and winter.

A substantial increase was noted in western Sioux County which may have been the result of population shifts from eastern Wyoming.

Hunters were allowed to harvest antelope in three management units during 1961. A total of 800 permits was allotted but only 693 issued. Of the 693 permittees, 603 were successful in bagging an antelope for a hunting success of 87 per cent.

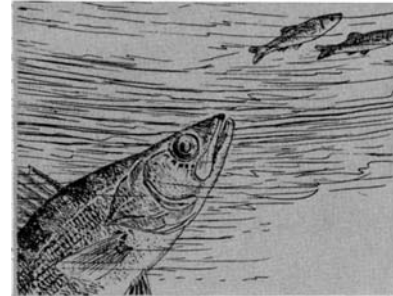
As in past years, hunters were highly selective, with adult bucks making up 58.5 per cent of the total harvest.

During 1961, 218 antelope, consisting of 79 males and 139 females, were tagged in western Nebraska and transplanted in the Sand Hills. Since the program began in January, 1958, 1,017 antelope have been successfully relocated in 17 release sites in the Sand Hills.



Unit

# FISHERIES



The division had a banner year in hatchery production, particularly in walleye and northern pike. Six additional technicians were employed to further management methods and give better coverage of the state.

Three new species, Sacramento perch, striped

bass, and Kentucky spotted bass, were introduced on an experimental basis.

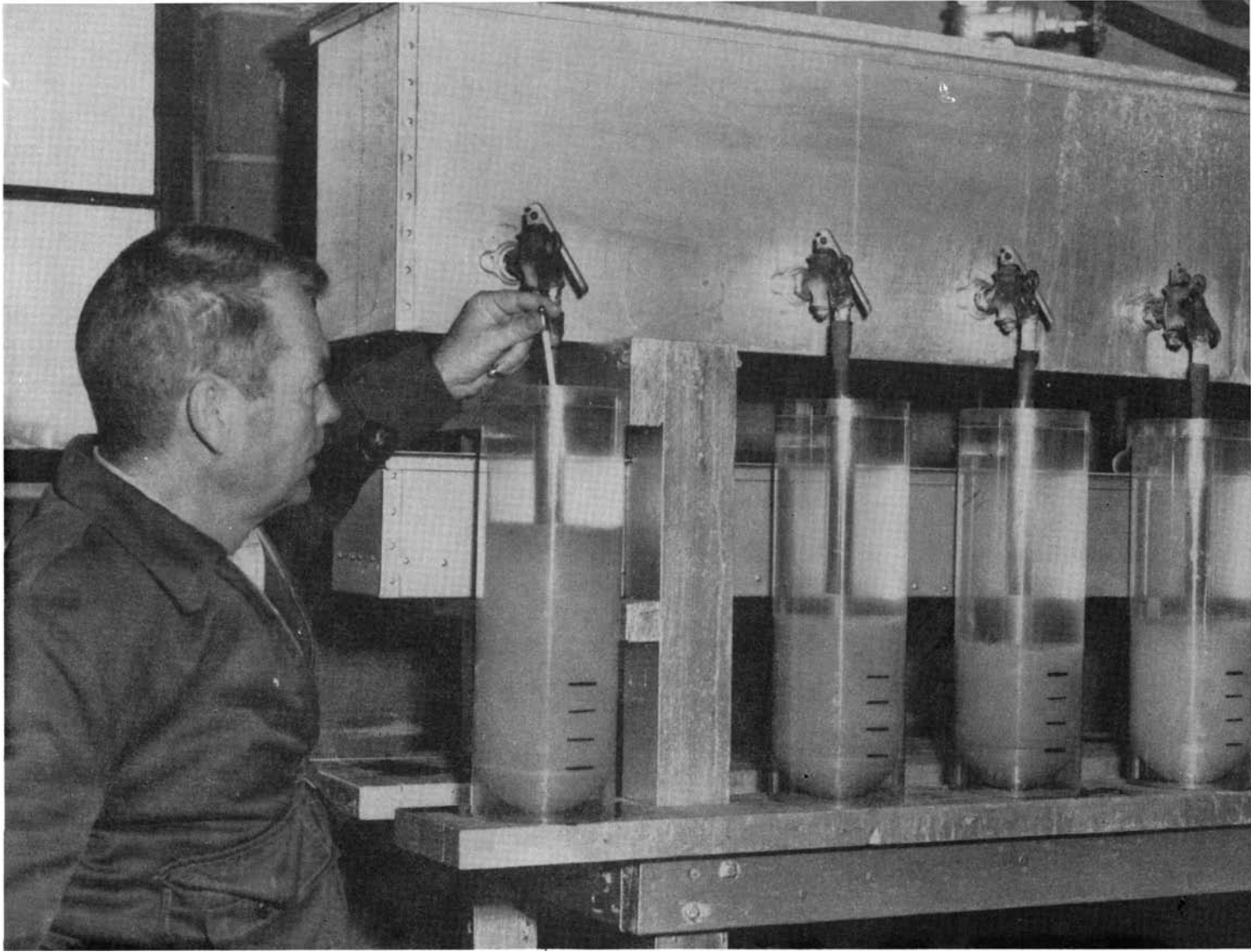
Renovation projects were carried out throughout the state with Red Willow Reservoir, where over 500,000 fingerlings of desirable game fish were planted, the largest single planting.

## GRAND TOTALS 1961

### FISH PRODUCED AND STOCKED FROM ALL HATCHERIES...7,928,524

SPECIES	FRY	FINGERLING	ADULT	TOTAL
BASS		368,264	1,851	370,115
BLUEGILL		238,844		238,844
NORTHERN PIKE	1,443,150	247,601		1,690,751
CRAPPIE		33,400		33,400
CATFISH	5,500	114,080		119,580
WARMWATER TROUT		6,650		6,650
WALLEYE	*4,575,360	481,883		5,057,243
BROWN TROUT		49,881		49,881
RAINBOW TROUT		7,902	159,941	167,843
KOKANEE SALMON		193,860		193,860
BULLHEAD		257		257
*includes 375,000 eggs TOTAL	6,217,870	1,548,762	161,892	7,928,524





Greatest hatchery season added nearly eight million fish to state waters

## Hatcheries

Hatcheries had the most productive year in the history of the division with nearly 8 million fish produced and stocked. Of this number, 5,057,243 were walleye which were raised at the North Platte hatchery, followed by 1,690,571 northern pike, also at North Platte. An additional 447,917 other fish were received at North Platte from various hatcheries.

Production of trout at Rock Creek hatchery increased more than 100 per cent over 1960. A large number of these were kokanee salmon stocked in McConaughy and Ogallala lakes.

## Management

The goal of fisheries management can best be summed up in two words--more fishing.

In order to accomplish this, personnel in this work renovate waters to rid them of undesirable rough fish, stock new waters with game fish best suited for the area, and reduce populations of overstocked waters.

Another important function is the propagation of fish, particularly walleye and northern pike, to give Nebraska anglers the finest fishing that is possible.

## Salvage and Distribution

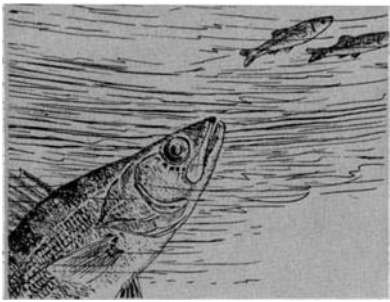
The salvage and distribution crew, stationed at North Platte, is responsible for seining lakes, streams, and rivers throughout the state.

This is done to rid areas of undesirable rough fish and prepare them for stocking of game species.

In 1961, 47 lakes and 4 canals were seined from 1 to 4 times each. A total of 1,016,453 pounds of fish

was seined in this manner.

The crew also stocked 42,800 bass and 31,000 bluegill in Red Willow Reservoir; 9,000 bluegill in Duke Alexis Lake; 34,528 trout in Two Rivers; 8,000 trout in Lake Ogallala; and an additional 14,000 trout, 97,612 northern pike, and 49,327 walleye in other areas.



# Research

Fisheries research takes in all phases of making more and better fishing. This research varies from studies of minute organisms to water content, making possible information not only on how fish grow but also why.

An example of research is work showing growth rates of northern pike in Watts Lake compared to other well known northern pike areas in the United States and Canada.

Much of this work is accomplished through federal-aid.

**WATTS LAKE  
NEBRASKA**

**LAKE La RONGE  
CANADA**

**GREAT SLAVE LAKE  
CANADA**

Technician carefully milks walleye



Watts Lake northern pike growth rate is leader





Management practices aid the commission in providing top-notch fishing for Nebraska anglers

## Records

Proof of **NEBRASKA**land's fishing lies in the records, and there improvements are being made all the time.

Five fishing records were topped in 1961, with an 8-pound, 5-ounce sauger caught in the Missouri River by Mrs. Betty Tepner, Plainview, setting a world record as well.

Other state records were a 1-pound, 12-ounce perch, a 29-pound carp, 72-pound paddlefish, and a 59-pound flathead catfish.

Lake McConaughy continues to be the hot-spot, with six records to its credit. However, the whole state has its share with even Carter Lake, located inside the limits of Omaha, holding the record for the largest drum.

**NEBRASKA**land fishing records are made possible through improved management and research techniques which enable the commission to make even better use of the state's fishing resources.



Mrs. Betty Tepner's sauger sets new world record



Attendance records in state parks show the popularity of outdoor recreation facilities

## Recreation

Recreation areas play an important part in the commission's program in that they offer a variety of facilities and make up the bulk, in numbers at least, of state areas.

Fremont State Recreation Area is very significant in the outdoor recreational scene in eastern Nebraska. Much of this significance is attributable to the fact that such recreation is ever increasingly becoming water-oriented. Therefore, since this is the only free public area in eastern Nebraska providing opportunity for fishing, swimming, recreational boating, and water skiing, in addition to other facilities, it is little wonder this area is exceedingly popular to the point of over-use and conflict of interests. These problems are not peculiar to the Fremont area or to Nebraska. They are international in scope and arise whenever the demand exceeds the potential or development of an area.

Two Rivers completed its first full season in 1961. Over 25,000 tags were purchased for use on the trout lake. Campers and trailerites representing over 25 states used the area. Since it is located between

Omaha and Lincoln, it is one of the most heavily used in the state.

State parks continue in popularity each year, with 1961 setting another record for both visitation and income.

Fort Robinson Park received the acclaim of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce in 1961 as "the outstanding tourist attraction in the State of Nebraska."

Records at Chadron State Park show guests from 40 states and several foreign countries registered there during 1961. A 105-foot-long fan-shaped swimming pool was opened late in the season.

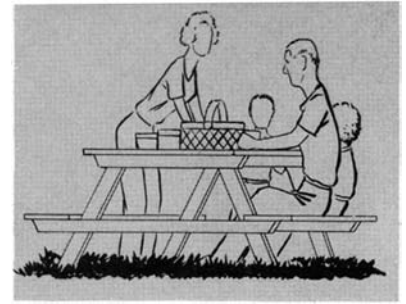
Major improvement at Ponca State Park was the construction of four modern double-unit cabins.

Niobrara State Park, nearly recovered from the flood that ravaged the area in 1960, realized its best season.

Cabin utilization at the four state parks and Victoria Springs State Recreation Area was up over 1960, with a total of 10,023 persons using the facilities.



# PARKS



By far the most significant contribution to public recreation in Nebraska history occurred in 1961 with the enactment of L. B. 208 which provides a thirty-hundredths of one mill levy for state park purposes for a period of 10 years.

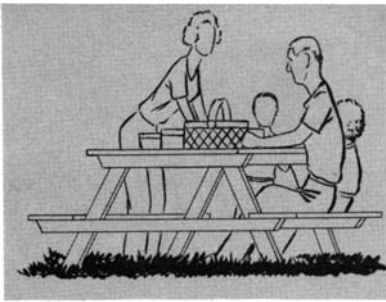
Recognition of the need of a dependable and predictable method of finance of outdoor recreational facilities over an established period of time was a

signal achievement of the Legislature, and Nebraskans will reap social and economic benefits from this action for years to come.

In keeping with the legislative progress, all state park visitation and income records were broken in 1961. There are signs of a leveling off in visitation, particularly at remote areas, but tremendous increases are noted in parks close to population centers.

Beautiful Chadron State Park provides many types of recreation





## Historical

Acquisition and restoration of Buffalo Bill's Scouts Rest Ranch was assured through co-operative efforts of North Platte. Donations amounting to half the purchase price were presented to the commission. Restoration of this famous historical site by the commission through state park funds will make possible a link with Nebraska's rich pioneer past.

Over 160,000 persons visited Arbor Lodge in 1961. The stately mansion, stables building containing the carriage exhibit, and the arboretum where 200 species of trees, shrubs, and garden plants captivate visitors.

Development of Fort Kearny and Fort Hartsuff progressed significantly under the historical program.

Arbor Lodge, one of the state's historical parks, is an early showcase







Wayside areas provide quick-stop facilities for travelers

## Wayside

Increased public usage and a new area were highlights of the wayside area program during 1961. Observations indicate Crystal Lake at South Sioux City was the area getting the greatest use followed by Lodgepole, Mormon Trail, Blue River, Beaver Creek, and Pine Ridge, in that order.

High-level daily or tri-weekly maintenance was carried out on all areas during the main-use season.

The continual increase in family camping was in constant evidence during the summer-use season. Mormon Trail, Crystal Lake, Blue River, and Lodgepole operated at over-optimum capacities during the period from June 20 through July 15.



# FEDERAL AID

## Land acquisition:

C. & N.W. Railroad lands	<u>\$888.30</u>	
Sub-total		\$ 888.30

## Development:

Habitat improvement	\$ 80,379.00
Sacramento-Wilcox Area	13,194.68

Plattsmouth Waterfowl	
Area	47,805.06
Transplanting Antelope	11,376.83
Two Rivers Area	1,029.26
Keith-Garden Goose	
Management Area	<u>2,702.10</u>
Sub-total	\$156,486.93

## Game management:

Wildlife surveys, etc.	<u>\$94,108.39</u>
Sub-total	\$ 94,108.39

## Research:

Pheasant life history	
and ecology	\$13,230.62
Grouse ecology	<u>8,441.06</u>
Sub-total	\$ 21,671.68

Co-ordination:	<u>\$10,479.84</u>
Sub-total	\$ 10,479.84
TOTAL	<u>\$283,635.14</u>

Fisheries restoration (Dingell-Johnson) funds and state matching funds were spent as follows:

Surveys and management:	\$42,457.48
Co-ordination:	<u>3,493.29</u>
TOTAL	\$45,950.77



**\$ 329,585.91**





Federal-aid funds enable the commission to improve hunting and fishing opportunities

Federal-aid in wildlife and fisheries restoration is essentially a self-help program by and for the hunter and fisherman. The funds result from federal excise taxes on certain hunting and fishing gear and are earmarked for restoration projects. The federal government collects the taxes, apportions the funds, and sets forth the general types of work that can be undertaken. The state selects and plans each project, conducts the work at state expense, and then is reimbursed up to 75 per cent from federal-aid funds.

In 1961, \$260,099.63 (Pittman-Robertson) and \$77,045.65 (Dingell-Johnson) were made available for use in Nebraska. This may be used for two years, after which any unobligated balance reverts to the federal migratory bird fund.

In 1961, projects dealing with land acquisition, development of existing areas, game management, and research were aided by Pittman-Robertson funds. Dingell-Johnson funds were used to make surveys, renovate ponds and lakes, and perform other fish management work.



# INFORMATION and TOURISM

## Publications

The monthly magazine, "Outdoor Nebraska," is an important link with the public in the **NEBRASKA**land story. During 1961, distribution rose to over 25,000 for an increase over 1960 and showed continuing gains over the past five years. Other division publications include hunting, fishing, boating, and trapping guides, as well as the annual report and other informative literature pertaining to wildlife.

## Releases

The weekly news release, "Wildlife Notes," heads the press relations component of the division's program. This award-winning news package is sent to newspapers, wire services, radio and television stations, outdoor writers, national and state publications, conservation departments, and department personnel. Special hunting and fishing releases, during their respective seasons, keep Nebraska's outdoorsmen up to the minute with the latest information.

## Exhibits

The story of **NEBRASKA**land, with particular emphasis on hunting, fishing, and camping, was amply told at seven sports shows attended by over one million persons. Commission personnel staffed the exhibits at shows in Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Des Moines, Wichita, Omaha, and Lincoln. Commission activities were fully covered in a series of displays during the State Fair.

## Programs

Appearances before youth, civic, church, and sportsmen's groups are particularly important as they offer the opportunity of giving information on hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities on a personal basis. Slides and movies are used to implement these programs. Division personnel participated in 58 such meetings in 1961, reaching 3,248 persons.

## Radio

Radio and television play an important part in transmitting hunting and fishing information. The weekly radio program, "Outdoor Nebraska," is broadcast by 26 stations. This informative 15-minute show features graphic accounts on all phases of Nebraska hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor activities. Television shorts are another effective method used to provide information. They are sent to stations throughout Nebraska as well as several bordering states.





On-the-spot interviews make "Outdoor Nebraska" one of the best in the nation



Sport shows spread Nebraska's recreation and tourist fare



# TOURISM

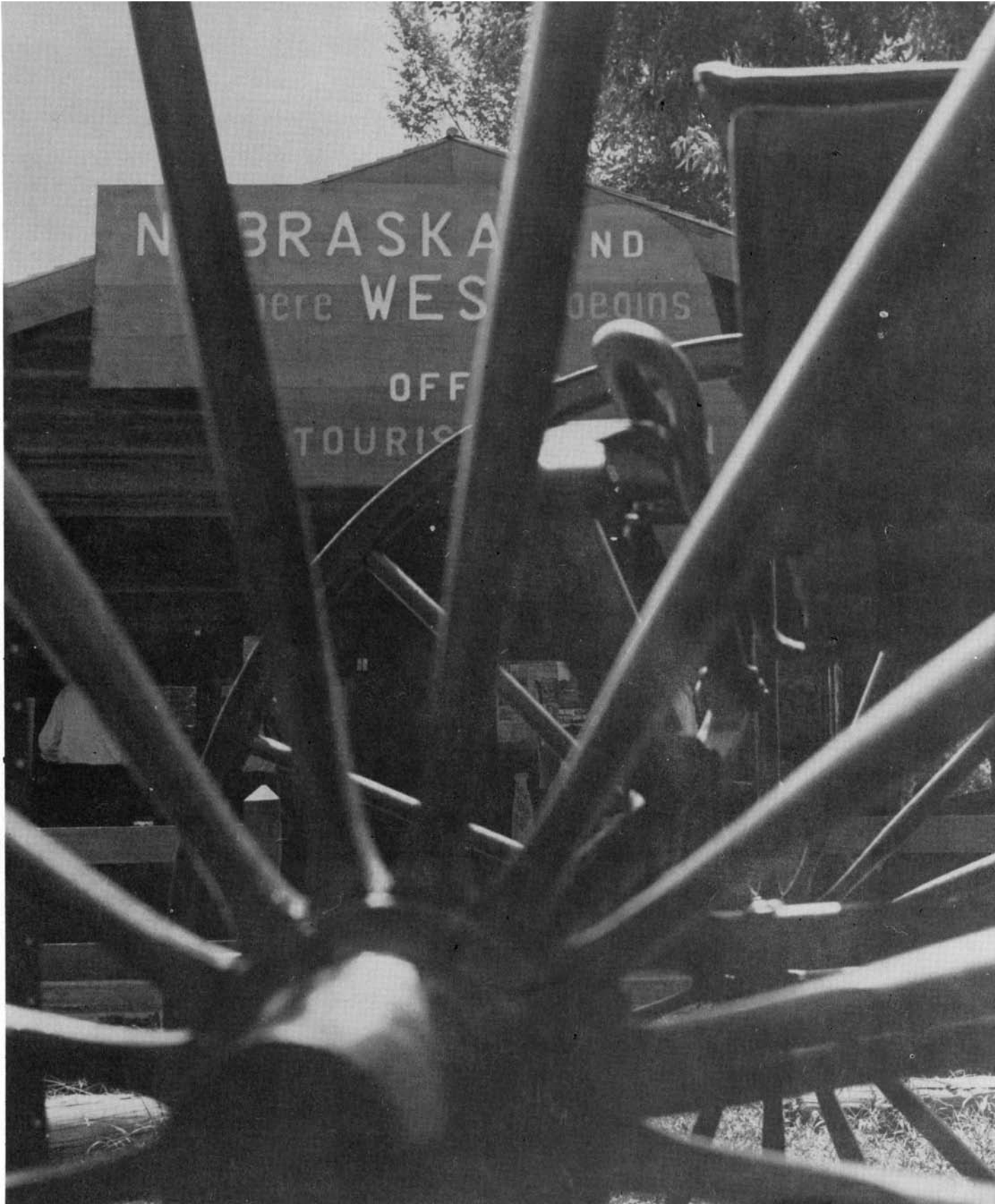
**NEBRASKA**land's tourist program is an important part of the division's operation. This vital function of promoting the scenic and historical wonders of the state is done by the distribution of informative literature to all over the United States and many foreign countries, and by personal contact with persons traveling in the state.

The tourist stations at Blair and the State Capitol are manned seven days a week through the summer months, supplying thousands of visitors with up-to-date information.

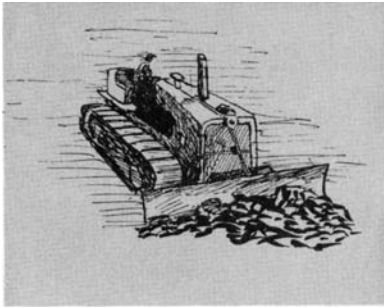


Out-of-state tourists wonder where to stop first.





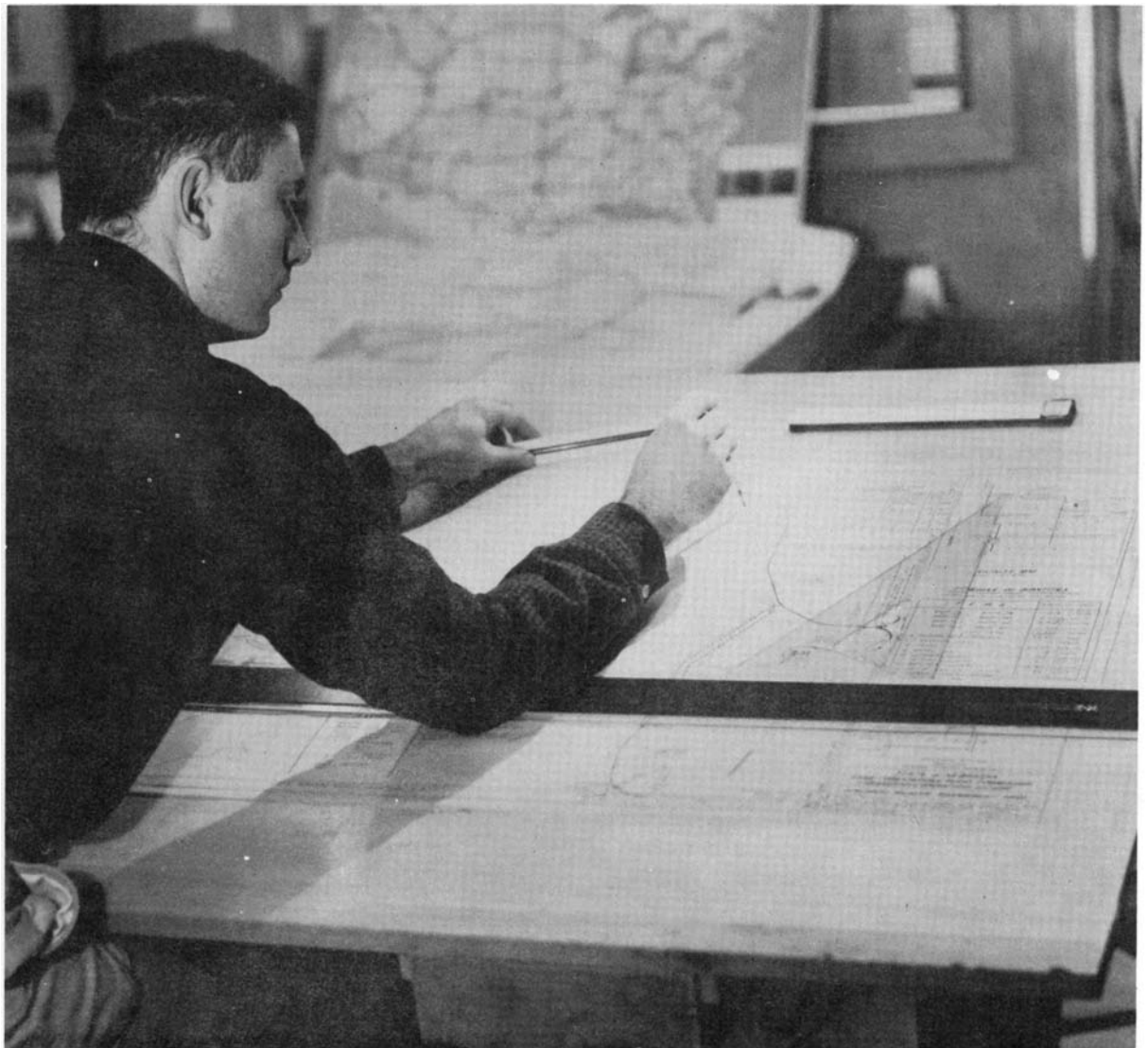
Blair tourist station displays "NEBRASKAland—Where the West Begins" slogan



# ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS

The division is responsible for engineering, operations, and supply. The engineering section prepares plans, designs, and specifications for all work carried out by the commission, with the actual construction of these projects carried out by the construction section. The supply section operates the supply depot and buildings.

Thus when a project is decided upon by one of the other divisions, the actual work from the first designs through the actual construction is handled by the engineering division. In addition, upkeep on all state-owned property is under the jurisdiction of this division.



Construction begins on the drawing board





Building pools is only one of many jobs

Considerable improvements in Nebraska's state parks, recreation, and wayside areas were made in 1961.

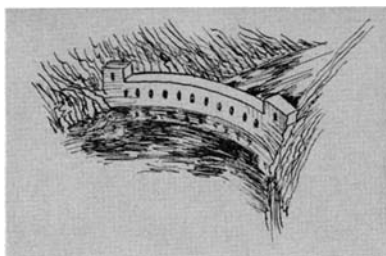
A modern swimming pool, bath house, water supply, water pressure control reservoir, filtering plant, and chemical treating system were constructed and placed in operation at Chadron State Park.

Four new cabins were constructed at Ponca State Park as were road improvements and automatic electronic pump for the park water supply reservoir.

Surveys and specifications were prepared and completed for work at Fort Kearny, Fort Robinson, and Fort Hartsuff state historical parks, Crystal Lake and Fairmont wayside areas, and Hanson special-use area.

Topographical surveys for boat marinas at Riverview Park, Brownville, and Omadi Bend were completed. Plans for constructing launching ramps and parking areas at each of these sites were prepared. Plans for a boat ramp at Santee were provided.





# LAND MANAGEMENT



More wildlife through management of land

Special-use area harvest



## Special Use

Land management is applied to special-use areas.

Outdoor recreation is the aim of these areas. They are managed to provide public hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, picnicking, and wildlife production.

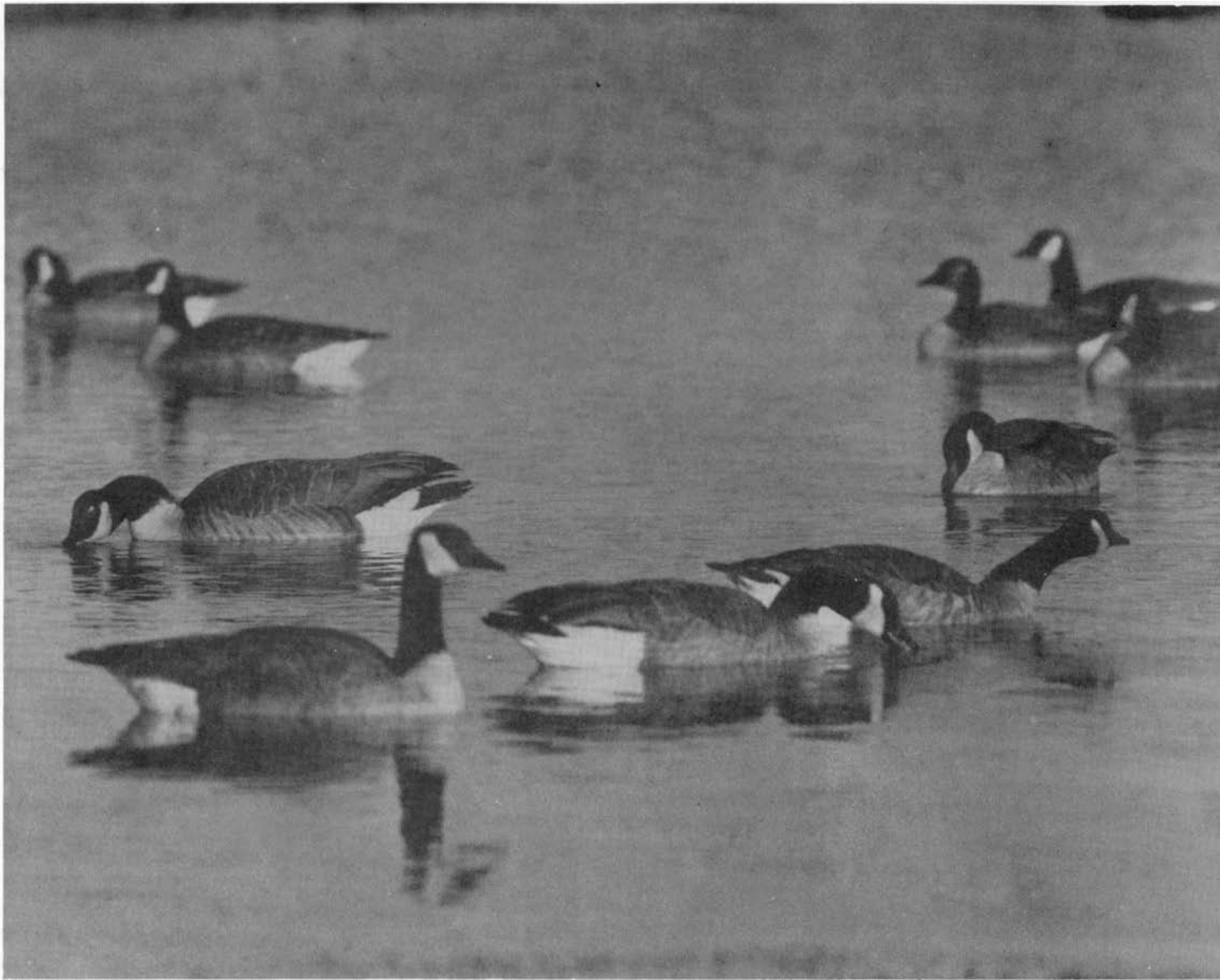
Three game-management areas are making intensive efforts to provide hunting opportunities. The Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area is showing increasing attractiveness to geese, with a peak of 18,000 Canadas, blues, and snows in the fall of 1961.

## Habitat

Farmers and ranchers are the real wildlife producers. However, the type and condition of cover on the land may be influenced by the land management division.

Habitat-improvement work now carried out by the division provides actual planting material on a limited basis. Beyond this, the work broadens to include assistance to farm and ranch operators in game and fish management.

The soil-bank program has provided valuable acres of undisturbed cover. This change in land use has benefited wildlife, just as good range management in the Sand Hills is conducive to high game populations.



Development of waterfowl refuges contributes to better hunting

## Extension

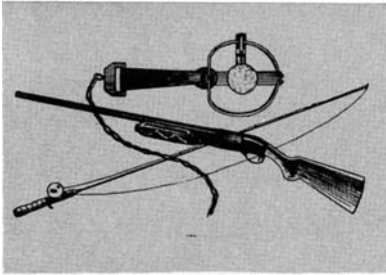
By working with county, state, and federal agencies, the division applies management through extension. This may seem remote from the harvest of game or fish, but actual management must be applied on the land.

The introduction of new crops, such as castor beans, into an area may affect wildlife. Through extension and co-operation the dangers or benefits of this new habitat can be determined. Improved methods of planting, tilling, and harvesting also necessitate changes in game habits. The Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Extension Service, and many other agencies assist the division in applying management on the land.

## Youth

The preparation of youth for the future is largely the responsibility of adults. Youth's knowledge of the out-of-doors is vital to assure the spiritual, cultural, and physical benefits that such outdoor recreation provides. These educational efforts are directed toward such groups as 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, and conservation workshops for teachers. Habitat-improvement demonstrations are carried out with many of these groups.

The intent of the program is two-fold. First, basic conservation principles are stressed through field demonstrations and classroom lectures. Awards of progress are offered to those meriting recognition. Secondly, personnel acquaint young people with nature, a vital part of our heritage.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

Game law enforcement is one of the important tools of the commission's wildlife management program. The objective of the law enforcement division is to enforce the laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife and boating, preventing violations as efficiently as possible, and apprehending those who have no regard for their fellow sportsmen.

In addition, conservation officers assist other divisions in such varied activities as making game counts and surveys, taking of bag and creel census, assisting in live trapping and releasing of game, and distributing and planting fish.

Another major activity deals with conservation-education programs and other types of public relations work. Explaining conservation laws and their importance in today's changing world of farmer-hunter relations helps prevent violations.

Five new officers were employed in 1961, bringing the total force to 43 in the state's 5 districts.



## Arrests

Violation	Number		
Loaded shotgun in vehicle	330	Hunting game birds with unplugged gun	17
Fishing without permit	311	Hunting on private land without permission	16
Operating motorboat with improper equipment	234	Over bag limit of game	15
Hunting or possessing game out of season	100	Nonresident hunting on resident permit	14
Drinking on state property	78	Taking fish by illegal devices	14
Hunting without permit	72	Nonresident fishing on resident permit	12
Towing skier without rear-view mirror	55	No upland game bird or waterfowl stamp	11
Littering	54	Miscellaneous	154
Operating motorboat without registration	50	Total arrests	1,731
Fishing with too many hooks or lines	43	Cases dismissed	24
Shooting game birds or animals from highway	42	Not guilty	11
Over bag limit of fish	36	Total convictions	1,696
Hunting before after hours	27	Fines	\$22,122
Hunting protected game birds or animals	25	Costs	\$6,866
Failure to display boat lights after sunset	21	Liquidated damages	\$6,463
		88 per cent convictions of total arrests	

98 per cent convictions of total arrests







Officers are often called on to assist other divisions

Proud fisherman displays a good catch

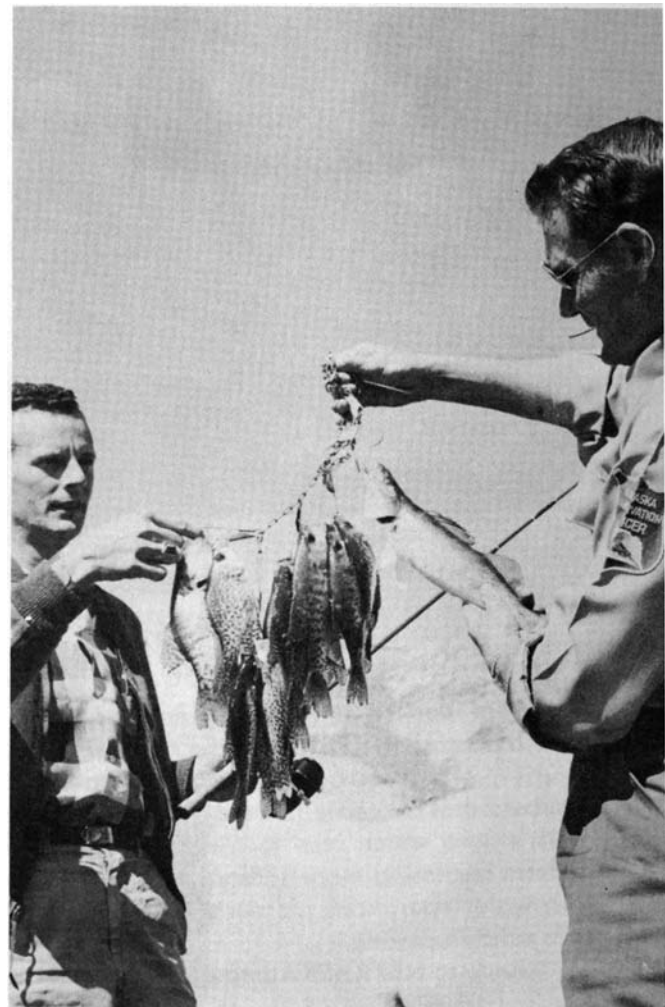
## Activities

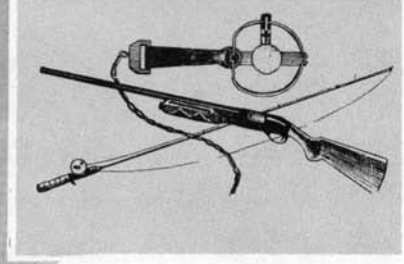
Officers handle such activities as helping sportsmen in filling out permit forms, giving information on game laws, and transmitting information on hunting and fishing conditions, daily patrol work, aiding other law-enforcement agencies, making bag and creel checks, and assisting other divisions in game and fish work.

Another important activity is participating in conservation-education programs before youth and sportsmen groups. Officers presided at over 400 such meetings in 1961. In addition, they took part in numerous sports and travel shows, and radio and television programs.

Officers drove a total of 1,553,632 miles in 1961. The average cost per mile of vehicles was 4.32 cents. The division aircraft, a Cessna 210, flew a total of 351.7 hours in 1961. Total miles flown is estimated at 64,708. The aircraft was used for transportation of commission personnel, turkeys, scaled quail, prairie grouse, and fish.

The increased efficiency of the officers, the two-way radio system, and use of the aircraft made 1961 a record-breaking year with 1,731 arrests. Of this number 1,696 were found guilty by the courts for a conviction percentage of 98 per cent.





Water skiing is fast growing sport in NEBRASKAland

## Boating

There was an encouraging improvement in Nebraska boating in 1961, with the number of accidents, injuries, and deaths attributed to boating showing a substantial decrease. This came in spite of boating registrations which rose to a record high of 16,153. Boaters becoming more safety conscious and familiar with water operations played a large part in Nebraska's safety upswing.

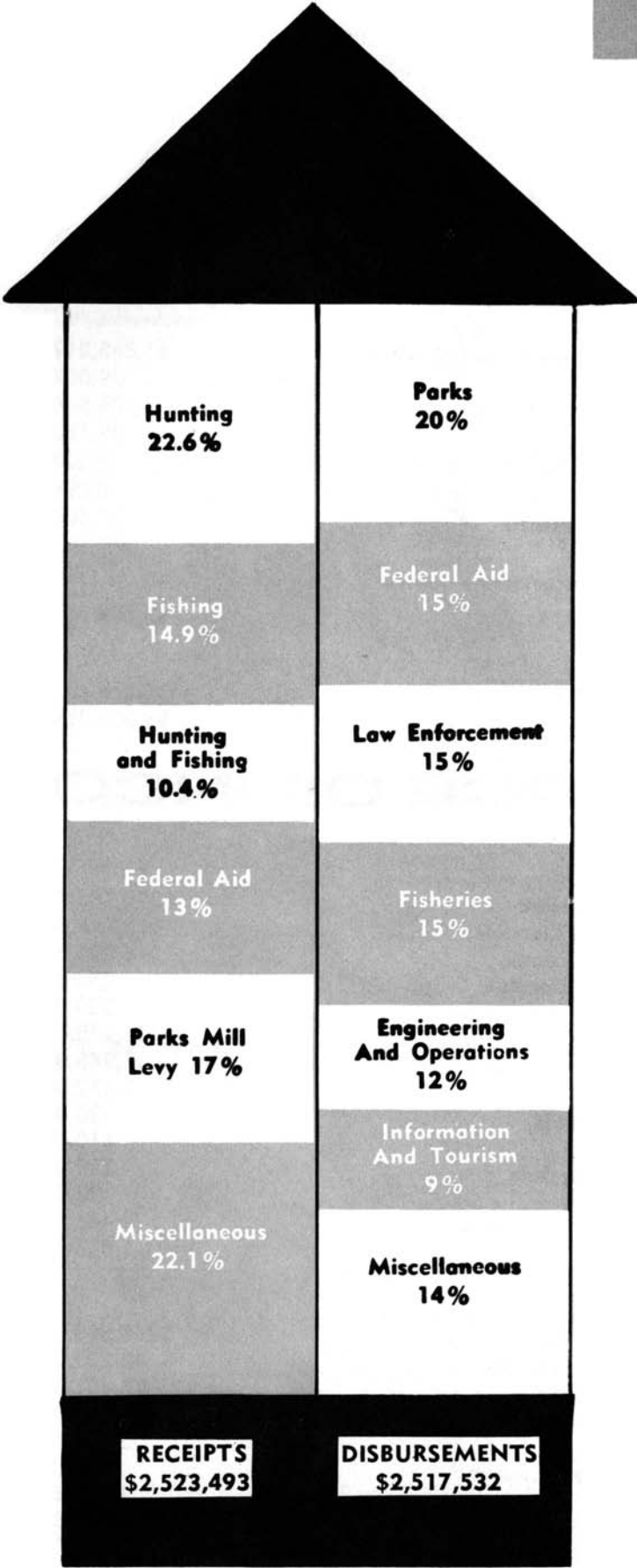
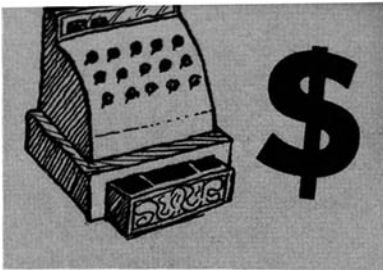
"Guide to **NEBRASKA**land Boating," was published

in 1961, giving the latest up-to-date laws. This publication is available throughout the state.

Funds derived from boating registrations were used in 1961 for work to be completed in 1962 on boat ramps at Omadi Bend, Brownville, and Nebraska City on the Missouri River.

Over 2,000 persons attended meetings on boating given by division personnel. A number of conservation officers finished boating instructor courses.

# FINANCIAL





# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## January 1, 1961—Cash on Hand:

Game Fund	\$418,259.12	
Recreation Area	20.00	
Boating Fund	6,540.32	
State Parks (Cash)	2,214.94	
State Parks (Mill Levy)	57,530.66	
		\$484,565.04

## January 1, 1961—Appropriation Balance on Hand:

State Parks	\$212.48	
Tourist Promotion	80.67	
		\$293.15

## Income:

Game (Permits, stamps, special fees)	\$1,845,217.91
State Parks (Cash)	79,089.40
State Parks (Special Mill Levy)	426,546.71
State Boating Fund	49,762.34
Tourist Promotion (Appropriation)	25,277.16
Access Road Fund (Appropriation)	60,000.00
Scouts Rest Ranch (Gift)	37,600.00

Disbursements: (Cash and Appropriation)		\$2,517,532.53
	\$3,008,351.71	\$2,517,532.53
Cash Balance January 1, 1962		\$ 390,508.32
Appropriation Balance January 1, 1962		\$ 100,310.86
	\$3,008,351.71	\$3,008,351.71

# SOURCE OF INCOME

## Hunting Activities

Source	Amount	Total
Resident Licenses to Hunt	\$250,185.95	
Nonresident Hunting Licenses	168,248.00	
Resident Trapping Licenses	6,221.80	
Resident Fur Buyers Licenses	550.00	
Nonresident Fur Buyers Licenses	300.00	
Deer Permits	136,175.00	
Antelope Permits	6,945.00	
Game Farm Permits	1,132.00	
Beaver Damage Permits	30.00	
Beaver Seals	110.00	
Buffalo and Venison Sale	130.00	
Fur Sale	23.00	
Duck Blind Rentals, Two Rivers	465.00	
Gun Sale	1,013.50	
		\$571,529.25

## Fishing Activities

Resident License to Fish	\$268,595.83
Nonresident Fishing Licenses	42,225.50
Nonresident 5-day Licenses	17,401.00
Bait Vendors	2,580.00
Seining Vendors	5,350.00
Private Fish Hatchery Licenses	135.00
Sale Food Fish	2,211.82
Trout Permits	38,548.35

\$377,047.50

<b>Hunting and Fishing Activities:</b>		
Resident Hunting and Fishing Licenses	\$261,524.54	\$261,524.54
<b>Federal:</b>		
Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Reimbursements	\$329,322.56	\$329,322.56
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts:</b>		
Liquidated Damages	\$ 4,922.50	
Two Rivers	4,700.97	
Leases	83,284.08	
Outdoor Nebraska	31,239.53	
Shipping Orders	5,832.46	
Sale of Motor Vehicles	10,448.23	
Incidentals	11,783.69	
		\$152,211.46
<b>State Parks Systems—Rentals and Miscellaneous</b>		
Arbor Lodge	\$5,583.95	
Chadron	18,760.22	
Fort Kearny	7,002.02	
Fort Robinson	16,022.69	
Niobrara	15,800.20	
Ponca	7,687.77	
Stolley	607.00	
Victoria Springs	1,690.50	
Two Rivers	5,797.55	
Miscellaneous Areas	137.50	
		\$79,089.40
<b>Special Cash Funds:</b>		
Upland Game Stamps	\$153,582.60	\$153,582.60
Special Mill Levy State Parks System	\$426,546.71	\$426,546.71
State Boating Fund	\$ 49,762.34	\$49,762.34
Tourist Promotion (Appropriation)	\$ 25,277.16	\$25,277.16
Access Road Fund (Appropriation)	\$ 60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Scouts Rest Ranch (Gift)	\$ 37,600.00	\$37,600.00
		\$2,523,493.52
Total Income for 1961		

## EXPENDITURES 1961

State	Purpose of Expenditures	Amount	Total
	Office		\$110,840.36
	Information-Tourism		\$199,846.52
	Commissioners' Expenses		\$5,491.43
	Law Enforcement		\$365,115.96
	Radio Communications		\$51,144.47
<b>Fisheries</b>			
	Administration	\$ 16,619.28	
	Fish Purchase	311.15	
	Grove Lake Trout Station	20,777.96	
	Salvage and Distribution	112,031.54	
	Gretna Hatchery	29,281.23	
	Valentine Hatchery	57,058.73	
	North Platte Hatchery	24,749.47	
	Rock Creek Hatchery	41,986.55	
	Fish Management	86,673.65	
			\$389,489.56

<b>Engineering and Operations</b>		
Administration	\$ 63,760.39	
Construction and Operations Crews	166,426.44	
Supply Depot	16,260.28	
Revolving Fund (Inventory Supplies Replacements)	13,326.66	
North Platte Headquarters Building	826.25	
Two Rivers	39,733.05	
Lewis and Clark	2,913.81	
		\$303,282.88
<b>Game</b>		
Administration	\$ 20,986.79	
Game Farms	23,606.15	
State Trapper	6,124.08	
		\$50,717.02
<b>Land Management</b>		
Administration	\$ 38,420.84	
Pressey	1,170.61	
Reservoir Crews	30,159.62	
Lake McConaughy	5,564.45	
Sacramento Agriculture	1,531.17	
Milburn Dam	592.47	
		\$77,439.16
<b>FEDERAL</b>		
<b>Pittman-Robertson (Game)</b>		
Co-ordination	\$ 10,427.36	
Wildlife Survey and Investigations	102,937.37	
Upland Game Restoration	82,083.63	
Sacramento Wildlife Development	3,133.87	
Pheasant Life History and Ecology	14,859.32	
Plattsmouth Waterfowl Area	52,011.07	
Trapping and Transplanting of Antelope and Deer	11,590.78	
Ecology of Prairie Grouse	8,991.97	
Two Rivers Acquisition	42,100.00	
Two Rivers Development	1,103.35	
Keith-Garden Goose Management Area	2,340.95	
Game Production and Hunting Areas	888.30	
Burchard Wildlife Area	2,919.16	
		\$335,387.13
<b>Dingell-Johnson (Fish)</b>		
Co-ordination	\$ 3,475.79	
Fisheries Inventory and Investigations	50,410.33	
		\$53,886.12
<b>State Parks Systems</b>		
Administration	\$ 48,421.03	
Fort Robinson	38,642.88	
Niobrara	19,194.13	
Ponca	86,614.67	
Fort Kearny	19,194.91	
Arbor Lodge	22,893.07	
Chadron	139,714.35	
Stolley	10,738.54	
Victoria Springs	9,017.11	
Two Rivers	32,833.88	
Lewis and Clark Area	20,168.36	
Box Butte and Minatare	1,647.92	
Recreation Areas	30,364.03	
Lake Ogallala	3,358.67	
Wayside Areas	5,257.76	
Fremont	20,456.74	
Fort Hartsuff	16.25	
Scouts Rest Ranch	43.95	
		\$508,578.25
<b>Recreational Area Use Stamps</b>		\$20.00
<b>Tourist Promotion</b>		\$15,146.97
<b>State Boating Fund</b>		\$43,646.70
<b>Scouts Rest Ranch (Special Donation Fund)</b>		\$7,500.00
<b>Total Expenditures for 1961</b>		<b>\$2,517,532.53</b>



# PERMITS ISSUED BY COUNTIES

COUNTY	Res. Fish	Res. Hunt	Fish & Hunt	N.R. Hunt	N.R. Fish	N.R.F. 5 Day	Trap	Total
Adams	3189	2418	1433	657	32	108	16	7853
Antelope	1029	582	566	39	11	68	38	2333
Arthur	55	36	50	1		2		144
Banner	36	41	35			1	3	116
Blaine	135	76	125	2	5	9	15	367
Boone	725	856	405	58	2	16	41	2103
Box Butte	1664	1241	760	176	17	93	14	3965
Boyd	322	325	234	13	3	11	18	926
Brown	538	341	347	31	23	70	39	1389
Buffalo	2976	2348	1651	472	42	117	68	7674
Burt	752	693	463	62	10	23	60	2063
Butler	649	639	543	14	3	11	26	1885
Cass	1741	1493	782	50	18	36	91	4211
Cedar	862	810	373	83	8	32	28	2196
Chase	882	566	633	274	406	224	17	3002
Cherry	759	483	475	50	62	88	31	1948
Cheyenne	1452	1507	830	281	37	95	6	4208
Clay	677	691	534	121	15	23	10	2071
Colfax	729	807	649	40	2	4	46	2277
Cuming	949	674	573	49	3	23	71	2342
Custer	1548	1717	1131	236	12	77	27	4748
Dakota	1173	1305	366	474	93	46	27	3484
Dawes	1269	757	581	85	30	86	26	2834
Dawson	2750	2289	1289	288	49	254	77	6996
Deuel	325	313	190	90	135	143	6	1202
Dixon	573	501	355	40	15	26	38	1548
Dodge	3620	2704	1592	138	64	105	182	8405
Douglas	20583	20705	7510	567	217	233	113	49928
Dundy	383	299	302	295	429	102	12	1822
Fillmore	709	852	604	164	12	12	6	2359
Franklin	673	434	372	261	50	63	1	1854
Frontier	385	173	269	21	5	19	11	883
Furnas	1644	881	732	441	225	207	20	4150
Gage	2179	1923	1179	326	53	72	67	5799
Garden	476	307	334	51	58	170	11	1407
Garfield	342	304	228	47	9	12	20	962
Gosper	164	112	111	24	6	39	1	457
Grant	145	86	84	3	1	8	13	340
Greeley	320	422	304	38	3	18	6	1111
Hall	3708	3204	1896	360	12	88	35	9303
Hamilton	727	551	472	45	9	12	12	1828
Harlan	3165	362	666	381	974	816	24	6388
Hayes	92	126	85	15	4	14	4	340
Hitchcock	1040	492	422	185	1089	336	6	3570
Holt	1259	995	1018	48	21	58	103	3502
Hooker	144	92	149	12	1	12	5	415
Howard	635	510	494	80	6	26	30	1781
Jefferson	989	939	633	174	45	50	32	2862
Johnson	578	473	424	27	5	17	46	1570

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>Res. Fish</b>	<b>Res. Hunt</b>	<b>Fish &amp; Hunt</b>	<b>N.R. Hunt</b>	<b>N.R. Fish</b>	<b>N.R.F. 5 Day</b>	<b>Trap</b>	<b>Total</b>
Kearney	493	549	320	190	6	38	3	1599
Keith	1868	852	1065	182	529	1453	18	5967
Keya Paha	74	88	48	5	4	3	5	227
Kimball	762	901	327	202	86	100	3	2381
Knox	2422	895	794	77	39	196	44	4467
Lancaster	10337	12111	6780	2771	58	137	128	32322
Lincoln	4390	2826	1969	295	103	427	84	10094
Logan	64	111	61	15	1	3	2	257
Loup	93	70	100	9	3	6	4	285
McPherson	40	29	39	2		2		112
Madison	2411	2268	1271	154	19	64	48	6235
Merrick	747	610	572	68	7	53	22	2079
Morrill	817	607	443	105	23	68	23	2086
Nance	507	470	400	18	4	19	14	1432
Nemaha	787	687	460	66	20	36	33	2089
Nuckolls	520	514	316	184	10	26	6	1576
Otoe	1304	1259	875	88	16	19	61	3622
Pawnee	523	242	351	68	44	37	20	1285
Perkins	304	400	305	115	41	29		1194
Phelps	1167	837	559	459	28	64	7	3121
Pierce	872	563	467	31	4	36	20	1993
Platte	1838	1742	1325	73	15	57	57	5107
Polk	584	329	417	36	2	15	4	1387
Red Willow	2398	1725	919	891	452	264	15	6664
Richardson	1592	911	890	273	357	103	74	4200
Rock	234	165	228	12	4	17	36	696
Saline	1224	1088	986	65	10	30	64	3467
Sarpy	1271	1589	472	21	8	21	28	3410
Saunders	1280	1161	758	59	15	27	98	3398
Scotts Bluff	4308	2944	1569	352	127	252	25	9577
Seward	980	985	696	58	3	20	33	2775
Sheridan	1064	783	574	69	40	66	30	2626
Sherman	356	445	285	70	9	23	11	1199
Sioux	94	45	69	8	6	13	3	238
Stanton	339	251	263	5	1	6	19	884
Thayer	833	673	569	459	26	41	11	2612
Thomas	107	80	109	8	2	10	11	327
Thurston	439	347	185	24	4	5	35	1039
Valley	594	692	521	77	2	18	19	1923
Washington	712	801	439	68	9	17	43	2089
Wayne	611	729	309	15	2	6	19	1691
Webster	623	479	316	447	54	57	3	1979
Wheeler	199	107	118	6	4	21	14	469
York	1194	983	745	106	4	32	12	3056
Colorado				75	484	67		626
Iowa				391	35	5		431
Kansas	626	73		138	780	85		1003
South Dakota			119	20	19	54		911
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>125714</b>	<b>106597</b>	<b>65656</b>	<b>16366</b>	<b>7850</b>	<b>8334</b>	<b>2808</b>	<b>333325</b>